

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

sub 1-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method for distributing active hidden data in an electronic media distribution system, the media distribution device having a content providing device and at least one player device, comprising the steps of:

providing active hidden data and control data, wherein the active hidden data comprises a set of executable machine instructions and the control data governs the use of the active hidden data;

embedding the active hidden data and the control data into a host data stream to form an embedded data stream, the active hidden data being embedded orthogonal to an error correction data portion of the control data in the embedded data stream;

transferring the embedded data stream from the content providing device to the player device;

extracting the active hidden data and the control data from the embedded data stream on the player device;

using the control data to ensure the errorless extractability of the active hidden data from the embedded data stream; and

executing the active hidden data on the player device when the active hidden data is extracted without error from the embedded data stream.

9. (cancelled)

10. (original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of embedding the active hidden data and the control data further comprises using at least one of base domain embedding scheme or spectrum domain embedding scheme.

11. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the orthogonal aspect of the host data signal are orthogonal signal features in the same domain or signal features extracted from two or more orthogonal domains.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 further comprises the steps of:

defining at least a portion of the control data as error correction data relating to the active hidden data;

extracting the error correction data from the embedded data stream after extracting the active hidden data; and

modifying the active hidden data using the error correction data prior to executing the active hidden data, thereby providing the set of executable machine instructions.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8 further comprising the steps of defining at least a portion of the control data as authentication data embedded orthogonal to the hidden active data and error correction data, and authenticating the embedded data stream using the authentication data prior to extracting the active hidden data.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 8 further comprising the steps of encrypting the active hidden data prior to embedding the active hidden data into the host data signal and decrypting the active hidden data prior to executing the active hidden data on the player device.

15. (currently amended) An electronic media distribution system for distributing active hidden data in a host data stream, the media distribution device having a content providing device and at least one player device, the content provider device comprising:

a bit stream generator receiving active hidden data and converting the active hidden data into an active bit stream, wherein the active hidden data comprises a set of executable machine instructions;

a first encoder receiving the active bit stream and the host data stream and embedding the active bit stream into the host data stream, thereby forming an embedded data stream; and

a second encoder receiving control data and the embedded data stream and embedding the control data into the embedded data stream, wherein the control data is used to govern the use of the active hidden data and an error correction data portion of the control data is orthogonal to the active bit stream in the embedded data stream; and

the at least one player device comprising;

a first decoder receiving the embedded data stream and extracting the control data from the embedded data stream;

a second decoder receiving the embedded data stream from the first decoded and extracting the active bit stream;

a correction module receiving the active bit stream and the control data, and using the control data to ensure errorless extractability of the active bit stream from the embedded data stream; and

an initiator for executing the active bit stream on the player device.

[16. (cancelled)]

17. (original) The media distribution system of Claim 15 wherein the orthogonal aspect of the host data stream are orthogonal signal features in the same domain or signal features extracted from two or more orthogonal domains.

18. (original) The media distribution system of Claim 15 wherein the first encoder embeds the active bit stream and the second encoder embeds the control data in accordance with either a base domain embedding scheme or spectrum domain embedding scheme.

[19-20. (cancelled)]